

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5547
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2000
SUB-STANDARD MEDICINES FOR NEURO DISEASES
SANJAY PASWAN

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Neuro-diseases are cropping up amongst children due to non-standardization of medicines for epilepsy; and
- (b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for the treatment of these diseases?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRIN.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a) While Government is not aware of any scientific report about non-standardisation of medicines for epilepsy and resultant occurrence of Neuro-diseases among children, an Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) study has reported prevalence of Neuro diseases among children to be about 3.0% of which one fourth pertains to epilepsy. However at a recent Conference, on Reduction of Childhood Neuro-morbidity, a SAARC expert group has expressed the view that anti epileptic drug formulations available in SAARC countries have varying compositions which may lead to under/over dosages.

(b) Manufacturing licenses for the drug formulations in India are granted by the State Licensing Authorities. However, the various antiepileptic formulations marketed in the country would be examined in consultation with the experts, for streamlining the composition of these drugs.